The seuerall Rates and taxations for VVages,

made and set foorth by the Iustices of Peace, for the Countie of Lancaster.

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VHere in the Parliament holden at Westminster the xii. day of Januarie, in the fift yeere of the reigne of our Soueraigne Lady the Queenes Maiesty, it was enacted by the Queene our soueraigne Lady, the Lords spirituall and temporall, and the commons in that Parliament assembled, that the Justices of the Peace of euery Shire, Riding, & libertie, within the limits of their seuerall commissions, or the more part of them, being reliant within the same, and the Sherife of the Countie, if he conueniently might, and euery Maior, Bailife, or other head officer within any Citie or Towne corporate, wherein is any Justices of the Peace within the limits of the said Citie or Towne, should by force of the saide Act, yeerely after Easter at times conuenient, appointed by the same, assemble themselues together, and calling before them such discreete and graue persons of the said County, Citie and Towne, as they should thinke meete, and conferring together, respecting the plentie or scarcity of the time and other circumstances necessarily to be considered, should by vertue of the said Act, within the limits and precincts of their seuerall commissions, limite, rate, and appoynt the wages, as well of such and so many of the said Artificers, handicrafts men, husbandmen, or any other labourer, seruant, or workeman, whose wages in times past hath bene by any law of Statute rated & appointed, as also the wages of all other labourers, artificers, workmen, or apprentices of husbandry, which haue not bene rated, as the same Justices, Maiors, or head officers within their seuerall cõmissions or liberties, should thinke meete by their discretions to be rated, limited, or appointed, and the same rates & tarations should certifie vnto the Queenes highnes Court of Chancery before a certaine day limited in ỹ said Act. Wherupon it should be lawful for the Lord Chancellor, or Lord keeper of the great seale of England, for the time being, vpon declaration thereof to her Highnesse, her heires or successors, or to the Lords & others of her Maiesties priuie Counsel, to cause Proclamations to be printed & sent down into euery of the said shires and places, conteining the seuerall rates appointed by the said Justices & other head officers, commanding thereby in her Highnes name, all persons straitly to obserue & keepe the same, vpon the danger of the punishment and forfaitures limited & appoynted by the said Act and Statute.

And where also it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all maner of person and persons, after such Proclamation made, should obserue and keepe the said rates for wages, vpon paine of the forfaitures & penalties conteined in the said Estatute, vntill by further order by Proclamation, according to the purport of the same Estatute, it should be otherwise ordered and proclaimed: Wherefore the Queenes Maiestie, hauing receiued into her saide Court of Chancery, amongst diuers other Certificates, from sundry her Highnesse Shires, Cities and Townes, one Certificate from the Countie of Lancaster, conteining the Rates for wages hereafter following, made and appointed by the Justices of the Countie of Lancaster, according to the tenour of the same Acte: And minding to haue the same rates put in execution in all pointes, as by the processe of the same Act is prescribed, like as her Maiestie hath and intendeth to doe in all other her Highnesse Counties and Shires, and other places of Libertie within this her Realme: Therefore her Highnesse straightly charaeth and commaundeth all maner person and persons within the Countie of Lancaster, to keepe and obserue in all poyntes the saide rates, tarations, orders and appointments for wages hereafter following and set foorth vpon the paines and forfeitures appointed by the said estatute, and vpon paine of her Highnesse displeasure.

And further her Highnesse pleasure & expresse commaudement is, that all Justices of Peace, Sherifes, & other Officers of the saide Countie of Lancaster, shall see and cause the same rates duely and seuerely to bee obserued and kept in all points: And this Proclamation to bee vsed in euery behalfe, according to the tenor and effect of the same Act. And her Maiesties further pleasure and commandement is, that if any question, scruple or doubt, shall arise vpon any of the tarations or rates for the sayd Countie of Lancaster, hereunder mentioned: That then the same shalbe resolued and determined by her Highnesse Justices of Peace, that did make and ordeine the same tarations and rates: And that all persons shall performe and keepe the same resolutions, orders, and determinations, so by them to be made and determined touching the same.

The Countie of Lancaſter.

INprimis no Baſtiſe of Huſbandry, chiefe Hinde, or Miller, ſhall take aboue fourty ſhillings by yeere and his Liuery, or viii.s. for the ſame at the election of the ſaid ſeruant.

Item, no common ſeruant of huſbandry of the age of xiiii. yeeres or aboue, ſhall take for wages aboue xxvi.s. viii.d. by yeere, and his liuery, or vi.s. viii.d. for the ſame, at the election of the ſaid ſeruant.

Item, no man ſeruant from the age of xvi. yeeres, to the age of xx. yeeres, ſhall take for his wages aboue xx.s. by the yeere and his liuery, or v.s. for the ſame, at the election of the ſaid ſeruant, and from the age of xx. yeres, vnto xxiiii. yeres, not aboue xxvi.s. viii.d. by yere and his liuery, or v.s. for the ſame, at the election of the ſaid ſeruant.

Item, no man ſeruant vnder the age of xvi. yeeres, ſhall not take any wages, but ſufficient meate, drinke, and apparrell, with other neceſſaries.

Item, no woman ſeruant aboue xviii. yeeres of age, ſhall take for her wages & liuery, aboue xiii.s. iiii.d. by yeere.

Item, no woman ſeruant aboue the age of xiiii. yeeres, vnto the age of xviii. yeeres, ſhall take for her wages and liuery, aboue x.s. by yeere.

Item, no woman ſeruant vnder the age of xiiii. yeeres, ſhall take any wages, but meate and drinke, and apparrell neceſſary for their degree.

Item, that no maner of men being huſbandry labourers, from the firſt day of May, vntill the laſt day of October, ſhall take by the day with meate and drinke aboue iii.d. and without meate and drinke vi.d. and from the firſt of October vntill the firſt of May, ſhall take by the day with meate and drinke, aboue ii.d. and without meate and drinke v.d. and not aboue.

Item, euery other inferiour man labourer in Hay harueſt, or Corne harueſt, ſhall haue and take with meate and drinke ii.d. and without meate and drinke iiii.d. by the day, and euery woman labourer in Hay harueſt, ſhall take with meate and drinke i.d. and without meate and drinke iii.d. and in Corne harueſt, euery woman ſeruant and labourer, ſhall take with meate and drinke ii.d. and without meate and drinke iiii.d. by the day and not aboue.

Item, euery mower of Hay or Corne, ſhall haue and take by the day with meate and drinke iiii.d. and without meate and drinke viii.d. and not aboue.

Item, that all the aforeſaid labourers to be hired by the weeke or by the moneth, ſhall take after the rates aforeſaid, accompting the number of dayes in the weeke, or moneth, after the rates aforeſaide, accompting euery Saturday or Eue of Holy day, but as halfe a day.

Item that all maner of labourers in hedging, ditching, paling, railing, wood making and other Taſke worke, ſhall take for the pearch, yeard, lugge, pole, doſen of wood, and hundreth of fagot, and other Taſke worke, as it may and ſhall be reaſonably agreed betweene the hirer and the taſker, according to the qualitie of the worke: the hardneſſe, deepeneſſe, breadth, length, and other nature of the ſoile, and the worke being therein conſidered.

A maſter Maſon, a maſter Carpenter, a maſter Joyner, a maſter Plumber, a maſter Hellier, a maſter Plaiſterer, and a maſter Thatcher, and euery of them hauing ſeruants or apprentices according to the ſtatute, and able to take charge of the worke, ſhall take by the day with meat and drinke iiii.d. and without meat and drinke viii.d. and not aboue.

Item, euery other Maſon, Carpenter, Joyner, Plumber, Hellier, Plaiſterer, Tyler, Shindler, and Cowper, being no maſter, ne apprentice, ſhall take by the day with meate and drinke iii.d. and without meate and drinke vi.d. and not aboue. and euery apprentice of the foreſaid artes, ii.d. by the day with meate and drinke, and without meate and drinke v.d. and not aboue.

Item, a payre of Sawyers to take by the day with meate and drinke viii.d. and without meate and drinke xvi.d. and for euery hundreth foote of board, or ſuch as ſaw by Taſke, without meate & drinke xviii.d. and not aboue.

Item euery other maſter artificer or handicrafts man, mencioned in the ſaid ſtatute, ſhall take by the day with meate and drinke iii.d. and without meate and drinke vi.d. and euery other artificer and apprentice being no maſter mencioned in the ſaide act, ſhall haue by the day with meate and drinke ii.d. and without meate and drinke v.d. and not aboue.

God ſaue the Queene. *Auguſt. 30. 1595.*

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